

Appl. No. : 09/905,335
Filed : July 13, 2001

REMARKS

Prior to entering the amendments, Claims 1-8 and 33-46 are pending in the application. By the present amendment, Claims 1-8, 33-36, and 44-46 are canceled. Accordingly, after entering the amendments, Claims 37-43 will remain pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 37-43 are allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants have rewritten Claims 37, 38, and 40 in independent form, incorporating all of the features of base Claim 1. Claim 39 depends from rewritten independent Claim 38; and Claims 41-43 depend from rewritten independent Claim 40. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 37-43 are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments, which merely rewrite allowable claims into independent form such that they are in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing amendments and claims, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and request the same. If, however, some issue remains that can be addressed by Examiner Amendment, Applicants cordially invite the Examiner to call the undersigned for authorization. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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